



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

of 100,000 born were 15,510, or very nearly the same as those for the year 1895 for the same age. At the end of three years the survivors were only 74 per cent, instead of 79 per cent, as in 1895, and that one-half had died before the close of the forty-first year, instead of surviving to the fifty-third, as in 1895."

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The *Annual Report of the Secretary of War* for the year 1899 contains the following table of deaths from yellow fever in the city of Havana for the first ten months of the year (p. 17) :—

1890	.	.	.	.	314	1895	.	.	.	.	512
1891	.	.	.	.	318	1896	.	.	.	.	950
1892	.	.	.	.	272	1897	.	.	.	.	991
1893	.	.	.	.	469	1898	.	.	.	.	134
1894	.	.	.	.	369	1899	.	.	.	.	63

This is a striking tribute to American sanitation, the number of deaths being less than one-seventh of the average number for the nine years preceding. The improvement is, however, evidently not due to this cause alone. The decrease in deaths for 1898 must in part have antedated American influences, and may in part be accounted for by the great number of deaths in 1896 and 1897, a period of abnormally high death rate from any zymotic disease, being often followed by a fall below the normal.

The report of the Secretary of War contains another table which illustrates a certain aphorism as to figures and their deceptiveness. On p. 25, he says, "The significance of the annual death rate from disease in the Philippines (17.20 per thousand) may be better appreciated by comparison with the rates in some of our well-known American cities."

The annual death rate per 1000 is :—

Washington	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20.74
Boston	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20.09
San Francisco	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.41
New York	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.28
Baltimore	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.10
Soldiers in the Philippines	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17.20

It must be obvious to the most casual observer that the death rate of a large city, including the entire population,—infants and old

people,—is scarcely comparable with the mortality of a body of men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five who have been subjected to a rigid physical examination. The effect of the medical selection can be only surmised; it must at any rate be great. The effect of the simple age limitation is shown by the following figures:—

In Boston, in 1890, the total death rate was 24.79; between the ages of 15 and 20 years it was 7.31; between the ages of 20 and 25 years it was 9.92; between the ages of 25 and 35 it was 12.49; between the ages of 35 and 45 it was 16.39 (*Vital Statistics of Boston and Philadelphia*. Census Office. 1895). In New York, in 1890, with a total death rate of 28.63, according to the same authorities, the death rate for the four age-periods given above were 5.76, 9.96, 14.26, and 21.01, respectively.

Les naissances et les décès suivant les heures de la journée. By Enrico Raseri. *Bulletin de l'Institut International de Statistique*. Vol. xi; 144.

The author refers to the figures given by Casper (*Denkw. zur mediz. Statist.* Berlin. 1846), and by Haushofer (*Lehr und Handbuch der Statistik*. Vienna. 1872), and then submits certain statistics collected by himself on the hourly fluctuations in the number of births and deaths. His table includes 25,474 deaths recorded by the chief of the local bureau of statistics in the city of Crémone, and 36,515 births in the city of Rome, during 1894, 1895, and 1896, in which the hour of birth was stated. The figures are reduced to a basis of one thousand deaths (or births) per twenty-four hours and plotted on a curve. The results confirm those of Casper, showing the deaths to be most numerous from 2 to 5 P. M. The average hourly deaths for every 1000 deaths per twenty-four hours were 49 between 2 and 7 P. M.; and only 34 between 7 P. M. and midnight. The birth curve shows an inverse ratio, its maximum occurring from 2 to 8 A. M. The average hourly births for every 1000 births per twenty-four hours were 52 between 1 A. M. and 8 A. M.; and only 33 between 1 P. M. and 8 P. M. The base of calculation is not sufficient to give smooth curves; nevertheless the main variations are clearly shown. The author's attempts to explain the phenomena on physiological grounds are not convincing.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.